THE Lions' Pride
OF SAINT LEO UNIVERSITY

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Freshman Class President reaches out

BY DANA JENNINGS
Lions' Pride Staff Writer

During the fall semester, freshman Cory Los Schumacher, had a lot on his plate, from beginning of his term as freshman class president to impending brain surgery.

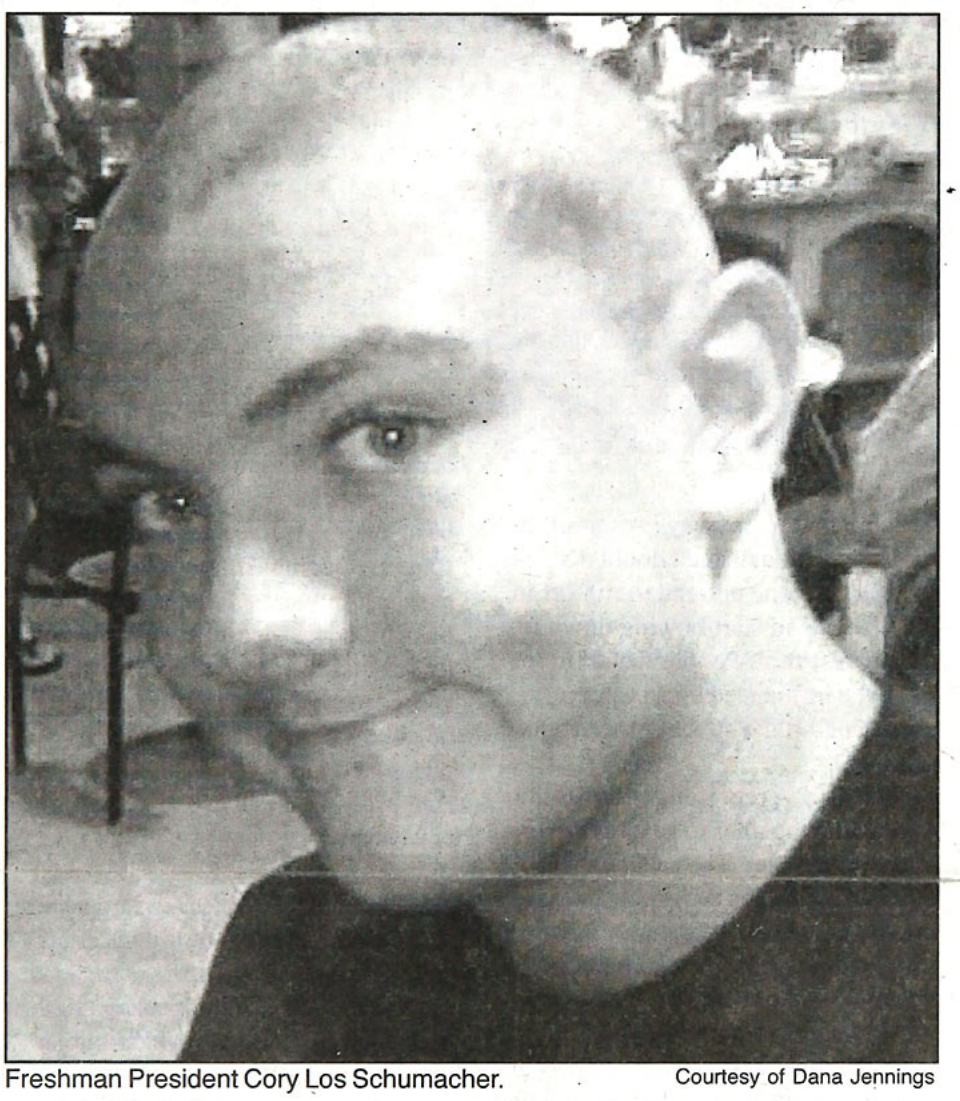
This semester the stakes may not include his life, but he has no desire to sit back and take it easy.

"This semester I plan on putting the pedal to the metal with planning and events that should be memorable for everyone," said Los Schmacher.

While in an airport in Buffalo, New York last August, Los Schumacher was given a phone call that would change his life. He was not to board the plane to go to Ecuador on a SERVE trip with his classmates; his doctors had found a tumor on his brain. The scientific name is Pleomorphic XanthoAstrocytoma, which is an incredibly rare tumor that presses on the brain and causes additional hormones and chemicals to be delivered into the body, also affecting the person's personality.

Some of his classmates would recognize the symptoms of this tumor: anger, depression, loneliness, and retreating to introversion.

"I felt that the world was against me, even my own family…I didn't tell anybody that didn't need to know,"



Freshman President Cory Los Schumacher. Courtesy of Dana Jennings

said Los Schumacher.

He was forced to take actions that many class officers never even fathom, as he had to leave on Thanksgiving break and didn't return to Saint Leo University until after the semester ended. Because of this he had to work extra hard in his classes and with his professors, and ultimately he had to draft a resignation letter from his office for a contingency plan.

"One of the biggest challenges at the time was stepping in front of the Senate and my class and letting them know I was possibly facing death," Los Schumacher said.

Three days before Thanksgiving, Los Schumacher went into surgery under the care of Dr. William Fenstemaker, whom he credits with saving his life. His personal physician, Dr. Laszlo Mechtler, was with him until the day of his surgery and continues treatment and care presently. The Roswell Park Cancer Institute is the facility that oversaw much of Los Schumacher's situation, and he is planning on having a benefit for Roswell Park to help garner awareness and to assist in the battle against this terrible disease. At the end of the surgery, the majority of the tumor had been removed, and with an MRI scheduled for March the prognosis is remarkably optimistic.

Los Schumacher has passed this test of endurance and will, but he would like to concentrate on pressing forward into the new year and new semester. He would, however, like to address his issues from last semester.

"I am sorry, it was a very difficult time…I came off as rude, unhappy,

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FAFSA gains significant importance for financial aid and loan seeking students

BY MINDY PIERCE & JESSICA PALL
Lions' Pride Sports Editors

Filing for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) can determine whether students will receive financial aid or not from their respective college or federal loans like the Stafford, Parent PLUS, Pell Grant, and opportunity for work study. Once determined, the offered loans and work study money provides sufficient help for students collecting funds for tuition.

While some students are aware of the importance of filling out the FAFSA, many do not know that to be considered for financial aid, such as federal loans, it is imperative to fill out the FAFSA forms every year, and preferably as early as possible due to its' first come, first served basis. There are limited funds for each university on their financial aid allowance.

The FASFA form for the 2010-2011 academic year was available on January 1 and is available until March 1.

"The FAFSA is important because Saint Leo requires all of its students to have a FAFSA on file before financial aid is disbursed to their account. Only in rare occurrences will we disburse financial aid to a student's account without a FAFSA," Andrew Strazi, Saint Leo financial aid counselor said.

If the students or their parents have not already filled out their tax forms, it is still not too late to do so. However, it is much faster to do so electronically as filling the FAFSA by paper may take up to three to four weeks.

"When done early, FAFSA is a stress I don't have to deal with" said Eric Singer, a Saint Leo freshman who receives a federal Stafford loan to help pay for his tuition.

It is important for students to realize that FAFSA forms must be resubmitted every spring as budgets and the monetary amount of financial aid changes every year, affecting the availability for applicants.

In completing FASFA forms, the students need to provide the financial information of their primary caregivers. Students with divorced parents should provide information of the parent who provides the most financial support. Step parent information will need to be provided as well.

FAFSA takes typically a little more than an hour to complete, and for any questions students may encounter, the following contact information is available: email (info@FAFSA.com) and phone (1.866.550.5120). They can help students get in touch with professionals who can help them with their situations.

Students can expect to receive their financial aid award notice in the spring about a week after submitting the FASFA form; however, for incoming students, their financial aid packages will not be available until they are accepted for admission.

With the recession our country is experiencing, financial aid applicants are expected to rise heavily. Students must take responsibility and turn in FASFA forms early to be applicable for receiving help with their tuition. The deadline for FAFSA is March 1!

Opinions

She said what???
Movie magic won't change faith

BY KATIE GAISER
Lions' Pride Layout Editor

The controversy surrounding the Vatican's more than unpleasing view of the hit movie *Avatar* is more than unpleasing to me.

Vatican officials, in both their newspaper and radio stations, have been voicing their disapproval of the film because they claim that the movie portrays a civilization that worships nature instead of a god.

Frankly, I can understand why people of any faith would interpret the movie's message this way. What these beings worship is something very different from many other religions and faiths. It just figures that different always means wrong or bad.

In this movie, God and nature are one. The being they pray to which represents "Mother nature" is referred to as Eywa. The civilization, called the Na'vi, is one with nature and therefore one with Eywa. In other words, the Na'vi do not choose to worship nature over God, because to them, nature is part of God.

This is a concept that I would think many religions would agree with. The Na'vi are one with who they worship. They can literally connect themselves to Eywa and pray to her directly. What an amazing ability that unfortunately can only happen in the movies.

According to yahoo news, the Pope himself explained in a message that the appropriate relationship between nature and man is not one of "absolutizing nature" or "considering it more important that the human person." Well why not? If nature is part of their god, then why not worship it as such?

Things are different in real life. To my best understanding, the Vatican believes that humans worship God and respect nature because He created it. It's the same thing in the movie. The Na'vi worship their environment because it is part of what their god created. In fact, it is part of their god. Oeriod.

What's wrong with the idea that these beings worship nature anyway? After all, the movie is fictional, and I doubt it's going to affect anyone enough to run off in the woods and start bowing down to the nearest fern. People would more likely be influenced by a pastor preaching on the street corner about faith.

The Na'vi represent a civilization that works together to sustain life in a peaceful manner. They value their elders, they honor their god, and they remain connected to their surroundings. They are something to be admired, not hated.

In fact, the humans in this film were the ones who projected any kind of negative message. They were filled with greed and selfishness and were willing to destroy an entire civilization just to make a ton of money.

Taking lives for money; why do I feel like I've seen this before in real life?

I think that's why this film spoke volumes. The way the writer depicted these peaceful people fighting for their right to keep their home safe was incredibly moving. I don't think there are any religious messages behind the film influencing people into believing that nature is more important than God. I couldn't disagree more with this notion.

If I came face to face with any Vatican official, I'd tell him to rest easy. Maybe we're both taking our opinions a little seriously. After all, the movie is hardly a how-to guide on religious practices. Sometimes, a film is just a film. And that's what she said.

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Facebook versus the real world

BY KRISTIN BRITTAIN
Lions' Pride Editor in Chief

Dear students, faculty, parents, and all other Facebook users. Yes, I said parents too. Thank you for making the world that is Facebook, pathetic.

Facebook is a social networking empire with billions of people logging on every day. Countless hours are spent facilitating pseudo conversations that could be taking place in the real world, during real time. But instead of delighting in an actual conversation, here we are snickering behind a computer screen. I say "we" because I am guilty of spending way too much time on Facebook as well. I virtual stalk people just like the rest of the world.

Now, I am not denying the fact that Facebook does have its good points. It has come in handy for me on countless occasions. For example, the night before a big paper is due I can always count on being able to log onto Facebook to find someone to commiserate with, thus slightly alleviating my stress during that dire moment, but leaving my paper undone until the last minute. Plus, Facebook always allotted me the enjoyment of checking up on ex-boyfriends and old friends, thus giving me the ability to judge their lives, current love interests, and to see how awful or wonderful they look in their new pictures. It makes me wonder if I was always this critical with stalkerish qualities or did Facebook allow me to think in this pathetic way?

Facebook is literally disconnecting their users from the real world, which is ironic because the idea behind Facebook is to keep people connected. With all of the advancements in technology, there is less of a need to socially interact anymore. Exhibit A: I was put on a group project with a fellow classmate and instead of discussing our project face-to-face the other person actually said, "Well, why don't you just Facebook me." Really? You can't speak to me face-to-face, but you want me to send you a Facebook message?

Not only are social networking sites ridding our need for physical interaction, but they are also ruining grammar and vocabulary. A lot of users do not care if words are misspelled or shortened. A great example of what I am talking about comes from a friend's Facebook status. It reads "Brandon Dion Black Dear Internet : That's real gangsta the way u made books go extinct like that. Take that, libararies!/ HA! Lol"

Perhaps what is needed is a type of technological cleansing. May I propose a few radical ideas?

Instead of playing Farmville and "practicing virtual agriculture," why not buy an actual plant, water it, and watch it grow. In place of playing games on Facebook, why not play a real life board game with other living, breathing, human beings.

Perhaps, you can buy a tangible aquarium with real fish rather than investing precious time on Fishville or Happy Aquarium caring for something that is not even real.

How about instead of "chatting" with people who happen to be wasting their time in a similar fashion, call them, meet up with them, talk face-to-face.

Instead of profusely updating your Facebook status, can't you send a mass text instead: "John Smith had a bad day. Mood- sad : (" Now if that doesn't grab your friends' attention, you don't need the fake condolences coming from one of your 485 Facebook "friends."

Not only can you rejoin the real world, but you can also stimulate the economy by doing a few simple things. Send your friend a greeting card through the mail in an attempt to say, "Hey, I'm thinking about you," instead of a "gift" on Facebook. Go out and buy a genuine round of drinks or coffee instead of sending a fake one. Interact, participate, and be part of the world in which you actually live in again.

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Write Here

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Controversy surrounding Avatar

BY CHERALYN BARRINGTON
Lions' Pride Assistant Layout Editor

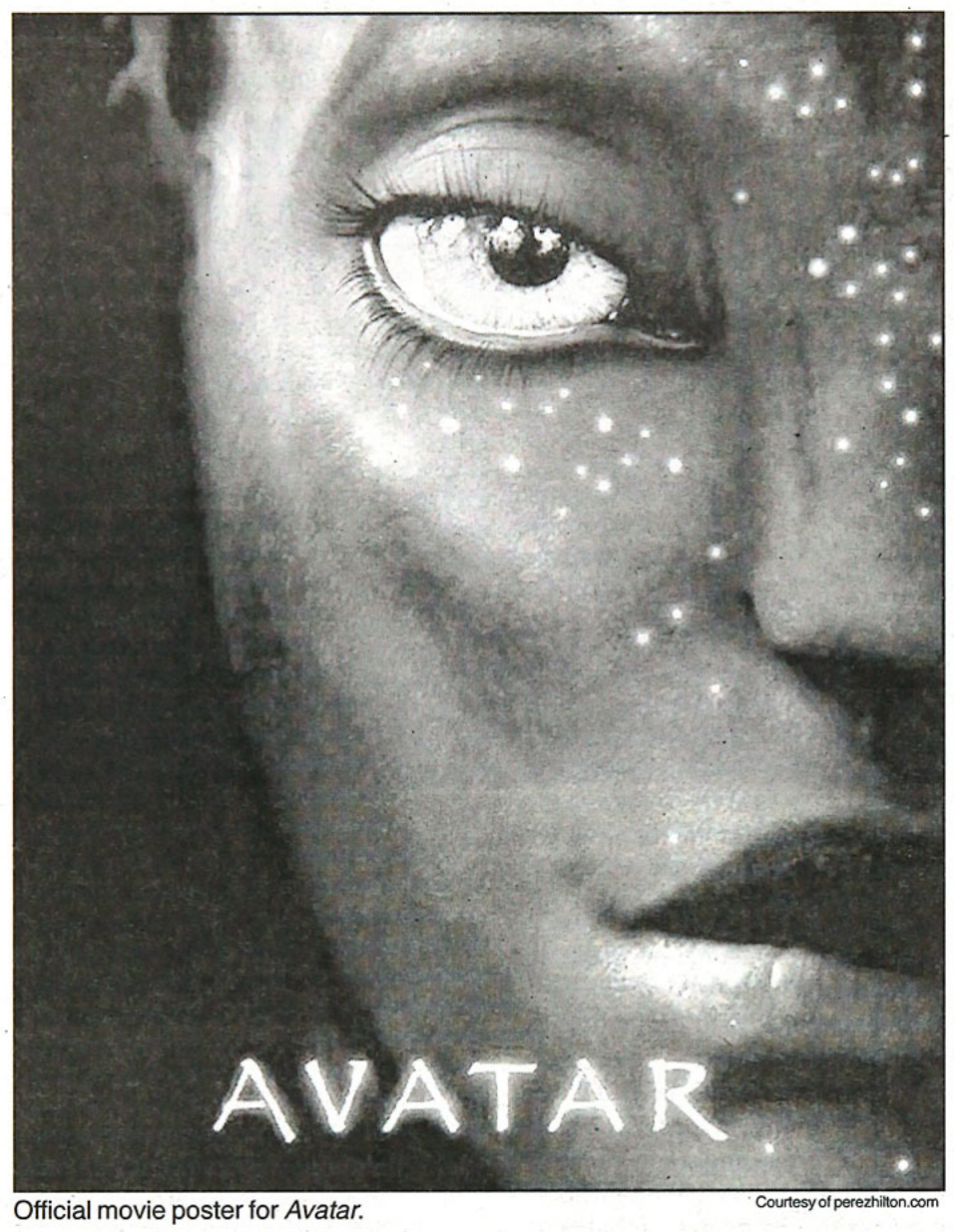
James Cameron's movie masterpiece has received much more than praise following its December release.

The gorgeously constructed 3-D film *Avatar* that portrays life on the alternative world of Pandora, has stirred controversy in many directions. The film is centered on ex-marine Jake Sully, a paraplegic who telepathically connects to an artificial blue 9-foot body modeling the Na'vi people who inhabit Pandora. The Na'vi are generally peaceful creatures who live like savages but are slightly more intelligent. They rely on nature for their needs and worship a type of "Mother Nature" referred to as Eywa.

Jake's mission is to get to know the Na'vi and essentially become one of them so the humans can form an alliance with them. The United States military that reside on the same base as the scientists working with Jake have other intentions. They seek to destroy the Na'vi's home so they can acquire precious soil. In the film the military acts quickly and does not think twice about destroying the whole Na'vi people.

Avatar has been controversial in many aspects. The Vatican has publically insulted the film making many points against it.

"Anti-imperialistic, anti-militaristic parable which doesn't have the same bite as other more serious films," according to the Vatican's newspaper when describing *Avatar*.



Official movie poster for *Avatar*. Courtesy of perezhilton.com

The Vatican's newspaper has also said that the movie is bland and insinuates that it relies on special effects to impress because the storyline is lacking.

"Numerous captivating special effects but little true emotion. Visually there is impact but the plot is stale," claims Vatican Newspaper writer *L'Osservatore* Romano when referring to *Avatar*.

The main point they criticized though, is that the film gives people the impression they should worship nature instead of religion. In addition to criticism from The Vatican, the United States military is also taking offense to the movie. Some people consider the movie to be taking a stab at the American military and portraying them as uncaring tyrants who attack innocent groups of people.

In addition to The Vatican and the United States military, other groups have also blacklisted *Avatar* for various reasons. The campaign called Smoke Free Movies has complained that *Avatar* character Grace Augustine, played by Sigourney Weaver, smokes too much throughout the film. Liberals have also accused the film of being racist because the white Jake Sully comes off as the heroic savior of the Na'vi who are mostly played by people of different races.

Although many different groups are attempting to yank *Avatar's* popularity, its enormous fan base continues to grow making it the highest earning movie to date.

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and overall just depressing. I'm not like that, and I do not want people to get the wrong impression. If anyone has questions or concerns, they can contact me…I am very open, everyone is more than welcome to ask anything," said Los Schumacher.

A brain tumor is an affliction that could have terrible effects on a person's outlook on life, but Los Schumacher is optimistic yet cautionary.

"This has taught me to appreciate the life I have and not to worry about the small stuff. And I don't want anyone to have to go through what I have gone through," he said.

Saint Leo University can look forward to a semester of motion, and a sense of life. With leaders like Los Schumacher determined to drive the university to bigger and better places, good times may be ahead.

Cory Los Schumacher can be reached at cory.losschumacher@email.saintleo.edu

Roswell Park Cancer Institute can be found at http://www.roswellpark.org/ and accepts donations.

Famous baseball star admits to using steroids

BY ANDREW LEVENGOOD
Lions' Pride Staff Writer

In 2005, McGwire refused to answer questions about steroids and PEDs in front of Congress along with other accused steroid users. Though his admittance was in no way surprising, it did shed light on when and how he used drugs and the reasons for doing so.

McGwire claims he used performance enhancing drugs to rehabilitate his body from injury, but he admits to continuing to use steroids after he was healthy. He claims that during his most successful seasons in the mid-nineties he only used steroids for four week periods, including in 1994 after the All-Star break because he was "breaking down." McGwire also claims that his homerun hitting ability comes directly from God and that steroids could in no way improve his hand-eye coordination.

Despite this claim, McGwire called the widow of Roger Maris, the man whose single season homerun record was broken by McGwire, to apologize. Many people, including the Hall of Fame voters, feel that Mark McGwire has disgraced baseball and does not deserve to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. Despite this the St. Louis Cardinal's hired the beleaguered slugger as their new hitting coach (which prompted his admittance).

The few people who still appreciate McGwire include current Cardinal manager Tony LaRussa, who himself has come under fire for not only hiring McGwire but also for his time managing McGwire, and his steroid using teammate Jose Canseco in Oakland.

Many fans feel that both LaRussa and Commissioner Bud Selig, amongst others, simply ignored the steroid problem in the nineties, thus staining the game of baseball. One of McGwire's reasons for using steroids was that MLB was not testing for it; this is something former Cardinal Andy Van Slyke finds offensive.

Van Slyke told ESPN that this logic "is like saying I was driving drunk because on this highway they had nothing for me to blow into."

Some students would agree.

"Someone who uses performance enhancing drugs shows a lack of integrity," junior A.J. Humphrey said.

Former Cardinal Jack Clark stated that during Cardinal's events in which he and Mark McGwire both appear, "I'm not going to say hello. I'm not going to shake his hand. He's a sad excuse for a player in the industry of baseball. Just seeing him in uniform makes me throw up. He should not be in baseball. He should be banned from baseball more than ever." Clark, along with other former players, are disillusioned with McGwire's antics. Clark also referred to McGwire as "creepy and phony" and that he should have to use all the money he earned(along with other steroid users) to build a Hall of Shame.

Overall, it seems the general view of the fans is that in many ways, Mark McGwire disgraced the game of baseball and its fans. However, it has been made clear that the fault does not solely rest upon his shoulders, but also the managers, general managers, and owners who all ignored what is arguably the worst scandal in sports history.

Saint Leo University's helping hand

BY COLLEEN SHANAHAN
Lions' Pride Online Editor

Twice a year, the Saint Leo community comes together to lend a helping hand. Community Service Day not only promotes the Benedictine values of Saint Leo, but is also allows students, faculty, and staff to give back to a community that could always use a helping hand and personally grow.

This semester, Saint Leo performed Community Service Day in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Saint Leo was only one of many universities, communities, and organizations to honor the day through service. Martin Luther King Jr. dedicated his life to securing not only equal rights for all, but to make the United States something everyone could be proud of: "We have an opportunity to make a better nation," Dr. King said.

One of the sites that welcomed Saint Leo's offer of a helping hand was the Edwinola Retirement Community. The Edwinola is a landmark in the Dade City community. It was originally opened in 1912 as a hotel. Currently, it serves as a retirement community for those who require assisted living and for those who suffer from Alzheimer's disease. Like many establishments, the Edwinola doesn't have time to do everything that the staff needs or wants to do for its residents. Fifteen students, staff, and faculty signed up to assist the Edwinola in its day-to-day activities. Groups assisted the staff in taking down Christmas lights, helped with the housekeeping, helped filing and filling out forms, and some attended to the Alzheimer's residents who enjoyed sitting around their hall and chatting. Singers from Saint Leo also stopped by and gave a performance for the residents. The residents enjoyed the singing so much that they demanded an encore, and they were rewarded with one more song.

Courtesy of Saint Leo Public Relations

Veronika Ospina-Kammerer, SWK faculty on right, speaks with patient visitng with a therapy dog and therapy dog volunteer

Even though the students, faculty, and staff only had a limited amount of time at the Edwinola, their presence felt like so much more to both its residents and staff.

"I just don't know how to say thank you," Nila Premer, the activities director of the Edwinola said.

" It is just amazing what these students have done for the wellness of the residents. It also takes a load off of the staff because we can't always get what we want done. Today, my assistant activities director was out. These helping hands meant we got things done we normally can't do because we don't have the time. [For example] We had Christmas lights out that would have been there for another two weeks," Premer said when asked what Community Service Day meant for the Edwinola.

Community Service Day for Saint Leo is bigger than just getting tasks accomplished. Students, faculty and staff leave the day with the feeling they were able to contribute to something bigger than themselves. With just a little bit of help, businesses and organizations across the community were able to share their respective missions and accomplish things that couldn't have been done in the time it was without the outreach of the Saint Leo community.

This semester, those students, faculty, and staff who gave to their community did not go away from the day empty handed. Saint Leo partnered up with Disney to give away free one-day tickets to any one of its parks. This giveaway was part of Disney's "Give a day, Get a day" program offered nationwide.

The School of Arts and Sciences Presents

Celebrating Black History: A Series of Events Marking the Contributions and Achievements of African Americans

The Black Athlete in America
Panel Discussion by History Faculty
Monday, February 1
7:00 p.m., with reception to follow
Greenfelder Denlinger Boardroom
Student Community Center

Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story
Starring Oscar Award Winning Actor Cuba Gooding Jr.
Thursday, February 4
7:00 p.m.
Selby Auditorium

Celebrating Black Achievements in the Arts and Sciences
Poster Exhibit
Thursday, February 11
11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Greenfelder Denlinger Boardroom
Student Community Center

Keynote Speaker Valada Flewellyn
Poet, Historian, and Author of *African Americans of Sanford*
Tuesday, February 16
7:00 p.m., with reception to follow
Greenfelder Denlinger Boardroom
Student Community Center

Buffalo Soldier: Sergeant George Jordan, 1847-1904, Medal of Honor
An original one-man performance, based on a true story performed by British Actor Cedric Liqueur
Wednesday, February 24
7:00 p.m.
Daniel A. Cannon Memorial Library

For more information, contact Director of Fine Arts Events
Allyson Marino at (352) 588-8662 or allyson.marino@saintleo.edu.

Haiti's horrific destruction from earthquake gains growing awareness and support

BY JESSICA PALL & MINDY PIERCE
Lions' Pride Sports Editors

The new year began with new hopes and resolutions, until an earthquake hitting Haiti produced overwhelming destruction, sorrow and confusion.

At 4:53 p.m. on Tuesday, January 13, a 7.0 magnitude earthquake, the worst to hit the country in 200 years, ravaged the Caribbean country of Haiti. With a population of seven million, the Haitian Red Cross estimated on Thursday, January 14, that 45,000-50,000 people had died and three million more were hurt or left homeless.

News reports from *The Washington Post* and CNN stated people are laying dead everywhere, and further the amounted mass of rubble is overwhelming. The earthquake left none to mercy destroying small buildings including shacks in shanty-towns, President Rene Preval's National Palace, hospitals, schools, and the main prison.

Looting began immediately, adding to the already hyped confusion surrounding this catastrophe.

People used wheel barrows to transport the dead and wounded, and doors were transformed into stretchers for the same purpose. Police officers also turned their pickup trucks into ambulances for their rescue missions.

The Washington Post informed readers that the capital's Roman Catholic Archbishop was killed, and the head of the U.N. peacekeeping mission was listed as missing among the fallen buildings.

Approximately 3,000 police and international peacekeepers cleared debris, directed traffic, and maintained security in the capital Wednesday but help was stretched thin. However, rescue specialists from the United States, Iceland, Britain, France, and China gathered together using tools ranging from jackhammers to dogs in their effort to rescue victims. Rescue attempts were first bestowed upon the city's schools, hotels, and hospitals before continuing on to private property.

"By sending over 10,0000 American soldiers, I feel that our country is taking responsibility in this moment of crisis," Sophomore Allison Cary stated when asked what her thoughts were concerning this crisis. A communication management major, Cary stated that her communications class discussed this issue and added, "It's interesting that foreign countries are angry with us for not sending support over sooner."

"Money is worth nothing right now," a foreign aid worker told Reuters, "water is more important as it is vital for one's survival."

A doctor's assistant, Jimitre Coquillon, also suggested that this earthquake was worse than a hurricane because of the lack of water. "Without water," Coquillon said on npr.org, "the citizens will die."

Field hospitals, staffed with doctors from the organization Doctors without Borders and Cuba, were set up in order to treat the wounded.

Photo source: mirror.co.uk
Many homes were destroyed like this one, leaving the people with nothing left.

With the poor conditions, some of the immediate health threats for Haitians and relief workers include respiratory disease from inhaling the massive amounts of loose dust created from the earthquake and diarrhea from drinking contaminated water.

There also is an increased risk of dengue fever, malaria, and measles, Kimberley Shoaf, associate director of the UCLA Center for Public Health and Disasters, said.

In a direct message to the citizens of Haiti, President Obama said on cbsnews.com, "This is one of those moments that calls out for American leadership—for the sake of our citizens who are in Haiti, for the sake of the Haitian people who have suffered so much, and for the sake of our common humanity—You will not be forsaken."

If students want to help in the aid of Haiti, there are a number of ways. Simply text Haiti to 90999 or Yele to 501501. This is a text that goes to the Red Cross and an automatic $10 will be added to one's next phone bill. By also visiting www.haitianeducation project.net, students can learn more about the severity of what horrific events Haiti has been hit with and what they can do to help.

Haitian students speak out

BY YESENIA RIVERA
Lions' Pride Staff Writer

Since the shocking 7.0 earthquake hit the country of Haiti, pictures of the aftermath shows the world how this catastrophe has inflicted so much pain and hardship on the inhabitants of the small island. A metropolis that was once filled with towering buildings, hillside neighborhoods, and a vibrant city life now show the results of a very sad devastation. When news of the earthquake broke out across the United States, the reaction was not only one of surprise and shock, but an immediate call to help. While organizations and help aids were beginning to form for the island, Haitians across the U.S. felt another urgency: to contact, find, and help the suffering family and friends that were directly affected by the disaster.

On the Saint Leo campus, Haitian students felt exactly the same. Fear and anxiety had increased for the first few hours, even days, after the quake. The lack of communication to and from Haiti proved to be the main catalyst for these worries, and thankfully, these connections improved for the students. Esther,20, and Andree,19, Garnier were both relieved to hear that their mother, little brother, and cousins were alive. Even though they were not in Haiti when the earthquake occurred, the sisters felt the fear and emotion behind their mother's voice when she opened up to the girls about what happened.

"She spoke about how the house suddenly moved and cracks appeared on the walls. She took my little brother and ran outside," Esther said.

Despite this, the house sustained no other damages, but they received tragic news as the day wore on. The family is grieving the loss of two great aunts who died when their house collapsed. Numerous friends from high school also did not survive, all between the ages of 20-22. The girls find hope in the arrival of their mother and little brother on Saturday morning to the United States.

Unlike the Garnier sisters, who had found out information about the earthquake relatively quickly, other Haitian students did not.

Everlie Vassor, 20, was in shock to receive a call from her boyfriend at midnight who told her what had happened. Everlie had been busy that whole day and was not accepting calls or answering back text messages, something she wishes that she had not done. "I regret not picking up, I truly do," she said. " I was in so much shock and I feel so guilty."

At first, she did not hear from her father, stepmother, and stepbrother, who all live in Port-au-Prince, and she initially thought that her dad was dead. She received confirmation from her family there later on that everyone was fine and that no significant damage was done to their property. Now that Everlie knows that her family is safe, she is trying to help others out by finding out if theirs are. When her family tells her that someone that they are close to is missing, she immediately hits the web and calls anyone she can in Haiti.

"My family calls me a good luck charm because my phone is the only one that has been getting through to Haiti without any problems," she said. "I honestly feel that it was not luck, but my faith in God that helped the most. I never realized how much faith I really have. I used the chapel 24/7. Prayer is the key."

Ralph Alphonse, 19, also shared the same sentiments. He received word about his father's side of the family as soon as he contacted him, finding out that they were alright. Since that one time, they have not received any other form of communication but hopes are high. Ralph iterated over and over how he is quite worried about how his dad is doing towards the situation because all of his family is in Port-au-Prince. Mr. Jean Alphonse, Ralph's father, moved to Florida from Haiti in 1988 and since has kept close ties to his family, which the majority live in Port-au-Prince.

While others around campus were receiving and awaiting calls, Jean-David Lafortuna, 22, was in class when his friend texted him. He could not read it till after class but he remarked that a flurry of different emotions eclipsed one after the other as he read and re-read the message over and over. "I was surprised, upset, depressed, and confused all at the same time," he remembers.

Apart from watching the news for the rest of the day for information, his family called and confirmed that no one was hurt, but many houses were damaged and even collapsed. Jean-David is a part of HEP (The Haitian Education Project) on campus and has been collecting funds for the relief effort to help. He recognizes the support from many students around campus as well as the abundant people worldwide.

"Haiti has not met a lot of success and progress in its history, and to see the United States and all other nations helping us out is a true blessing," Jean-David said.

Saint Leo University has been working through University Ministry, HEP, and other on-campus relief efforts to do their part in assisting to this tragedy. Prayers and support go out across this campus to the Haitian and any other students who were affected. This conglomeration of unity and support for Haiti is only just the beginning as the days unfold. However small or distraught, the backbone of Haiti is its strong-willed and determined people who all seem to share the same optimism that Haiti will do its best to survive through this.

Arts & Entertainment

Nine Notable Movies of 2009

..and Some Honorable Mentions

BY CHERALYN BARRINGTON
Lions' Pride Assistant Layout Editor

Michael Oher (played by Quinton Aaron) and his adoptive mother Leigh Ann (played by Sandra Bullock) have a touching moment.

The year 2009 brought America many new movies to love, hate, and remember; here is a list of the most memorable.

1) The Blind Side

With a remarkable performance by Sandra Bullock as the adoptive mother of the now NFL star Michael Oher, *The Blind Side* is a heart-warming hit. It tells the beautiful true story of a homeless African American boy and the rich white family who took him in and gave him a second chance at life. With a spectacular cast also including country singer Tim McGraw, *The Blind Side* definitely tugs on a few heart-strings.

2) Avatar

This majestic film combines humans and CGI's (computer generated images) to create a breath-taking masterpiece. Director James Cameron, who also directed *Titanic*, manufactured a colorful, mystical world called Pandora, which is inhabited by the blue, extremely muscular and nine foot Na'vi. The spectacular 3-D imagery paired with an intriguing story line makes this movie a very enjoyable watch.

3) The Hangover

This side-splitting hilarious comedy charmed many with its bold, uncensored humor. It tells the story of three men who bring their soon-to-be wed pal to Las Vegas for one last hoorah before the wedding. Little did they know the trip would turn out to be the bachelor party from hell with laugh out loud twist and turns around every corner. With extremely comedic actors and a cameo from Mike Tyson and a Tiger, this film is a knee-slapping, tooth-pulling fun. (You'll have to watch the movie to get that one!).

4) New Moon

Bella and Edward are back and Jacob has a secret: he's a werewolf. The movie is action packed and surpasses its precursor *Twilight* by miles. The script is better, the story is more interesting, and overall the movie is much more enjoyable. For *Twilight* fans or those drawn toward the fantasy genre, this is a must see.

5) Star Trek

Beam me up, Scotty! In 2009 *Star Trek's* big screen arrival pleased Trekkies and non-Trekkies alike. The movie fresh with a new cast, features Chris Pine as an arrogant but likable Captain Kirk, and Zachary Quinto as Spock. Leonard Nemoy also reclaims his role as a much older

Spock from the future. The movie has an entertaining plot and very likable characters.

6) Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince

In 2009, Harry Potter fans everywhere were thrilled when the sixth part of the series hit the silver screen. The movie delivered with its beautifully captured images, dark nature, and giggle inducing humor. With a captivating plot, great script, and good humor, this film could be one of the best Harry Potter movies to date.

7) Up

Although it might seem like this film predominately appeals to children, the characters are so real and true to life that it allows the watcher to get connected to them. The movie captures raw emotion in the 78 year-old balloon salesman who, when faced with life's difficulties, ties thousands of balloons to his home causing it to float away. He winds up on the greatest adventure of his life, and meets many interesting characters along the way.

8) Zombieland

Zombieland was constructed in a unique fashion and contrary to its title is actually a comedy. Instead of making this movie a horrifying slasher flick, it brings humor to escaping and destroying rabid zombies. With a cameo from an ever-funny Bill Murray, this movie is truly satisfying.

9) 500 Days of Summer

This is not a typical love-story. It accurately depicts real-life. It laughs in the face of perfect *Cinderella*-type love stories. *500 Days of Summer* is refreshingly realistic as it takes the watcher through the rocky, intimate, and often adorable relationship of Tom and Summer. Tom is a hopeless romantic and Summer does not believe in love. These two mash together to create a masterpiece filled with beautiful colors and great music.

Honorable mentions: *I Love You, Man, Public Enemies, The Time-Traveler's Wife, It's Complicated, X-Men Origins: Wolverine, Drag Me To Hell, Sherlock Holmes, The Uninvited, He's Just Not that Into You.*

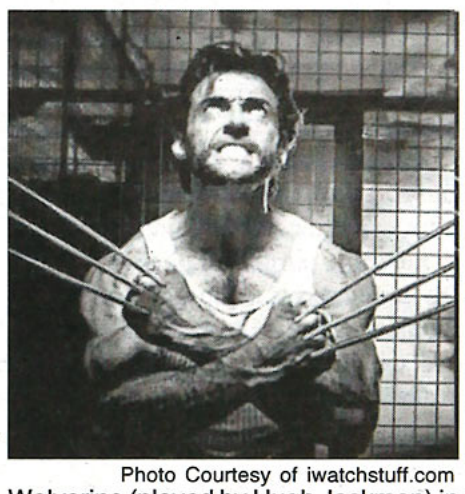


Photo Courtesy of iwatchstuff.com
Wolverine (played by Hugh Jackman) in X-Men Origins: Wolverine striking a fierce pose.

A View From The Bridge

BY MARY F. CHUHINKO
Lion's Pride Staff Writer

It was a bitter cold night in New York City. The wind whipped at the people's faces who stood patiently in line to retrieve their tickets for the preview performance of "A View from the Bridge." The historic Cort Theater is the home of Arthur Miller's classic tale, starring Liev Schreiber and Scarlett Johansson. These two bright stars light up the stage in director Gregory Mosher's return to Broadway.

The set was simple yet beautifully done. A dark brick alleyway opens up to reveal the apartment of Eddie and his wife Beatrice who are played by Schrelber and Jessica Hecht. Scarlett Johansson plays their brunette orphaned niece, Catherine, who is growing into a young lady right before their eyes.

The play is set in Brooklyn, in the 1950s, when illegal immigration was starting to get intense. Living in an Italian neighborhood, many residents hid their relatives once they came over from the mother land.

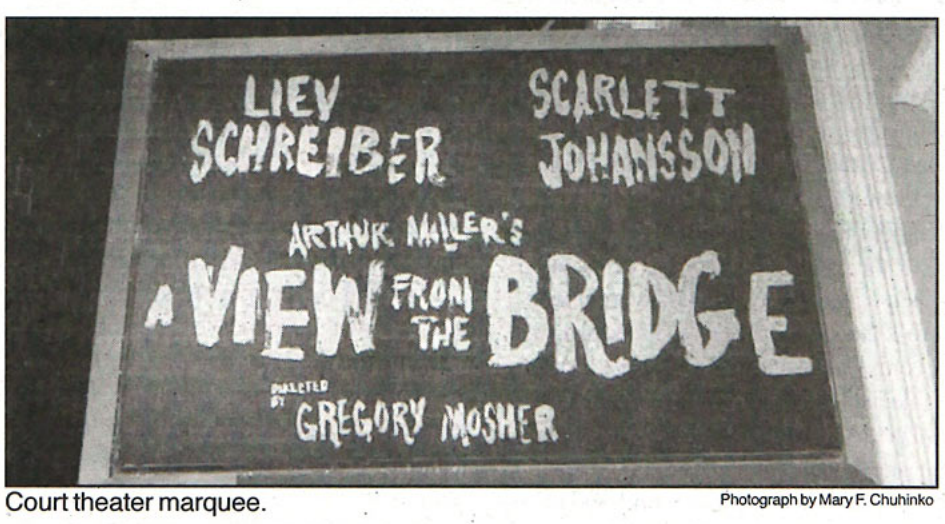
The real tension begins when Beatrice's cousins come over from Italy and live with the family for a brief time. Once in the house Catherine and one of the cousin's, Rudolpho, begin to fall in love, much to the disdain of Eddie.

The story is packed with sexual tension, due to the fact that Eddie is tormented by his feelings towards his niece which are blurred between the lines of platonic love and pure passion. The plot thickens as marriage proposals occur and the threat of the immigration police is constantly gnawing at the back of every character's mind. This keeps every character on edge.

Liev Schreiber gives the performance of his career as Eddie Carbone. He is known for his work in "The Omen," "Kate & Leopold," and most recently, "X Men Origin: Wolverine." As Eddie, Liev plays an everyman. As a hard-working American trying to raise his family, his New York accent was flawless. He was perfect; he was Eddie Carbone.

Scarlett Johansson traded in her signature blonde locks for below the shoulder length brown hair. The native New Yorker brought out her accent,

and really let Catherine grow within the piece. Johansson is known for her work in "Lost in Translation," The Other Boleyn Girl," and the upcoming sequel, "Iron Man 2." In her Playbill bio, Johansson said that performing on Broadway has always been a dream of



Court theater marquee.
Photograph by Mary F. Chuhinko

hers since she was a child. For a young woman of 25, she was no slouch on stage, stealing much of the spot light.

The play is cut into two acts, which keeps the audience hanging on every word. The costumes were excellently designed, beautiful dresses, pencil skirts, dress coats and news boy hats just to name a few key pieces.

After the play, the cast graciously took their bows; Johansson gave a humble curtsey to the standing ovation. As Schreiber and Johansson walked back stage, Schreiber touchingly placed an arm around Johansson, much like a big brother.

Outside the Cort Theater, loyal fans waited patiently by the stage door for a glimpse of their much beloved actors. They graciously made their way to the circle to sign autographs.

"A View From The Bridge," will premiere January 24, and will run until April 4th. It is running on a limited engagement, so anyone interested better act fast. Make sure to reserve tickets for the week of Spring Break, if visiting New York. "A View From The Bridge," is a wonderful Broadway experience, and this reporter would see it again if she could.

What will you do in 2010?
A history of new years

BY JORDAN COATES
Lions' Pride Staff Writer

As the clock ticks down before ringing in the New Year, people all around the world anxiously await the upcoming year. Some may be focused on the stigma that how they spend their New Year's Eve is a foreshadow for the upcoming year. Some may be sharing that magical midnight kiss, and some might be eager for the New Year and a new start. The New Year brings ideals of the "new you." This simple change from on day to another has created a motivating force for people all around the world for all kinds of desires. Perhaps, this year you want to go further in your career, find the perfect match, or drop those ten holiday pounds. For these desires there are personal New Year's resolutions.

The celebration of New Year's derives from the Roman King Janus. He was known for his ability to look back on the past and look forward to the future. The Romans celebrated New Year's by seeking forgiveness and giving gifts. This holiday comes very close to the celebration of Christmas, but there are other traditions in the new year that make it different. For example, in America it is tradition to eat black eyed peas and in Spain to eat twelve grapes at midnight. New Year's has moved about a lot since its beginning but never the less it is a time for new beginnings.

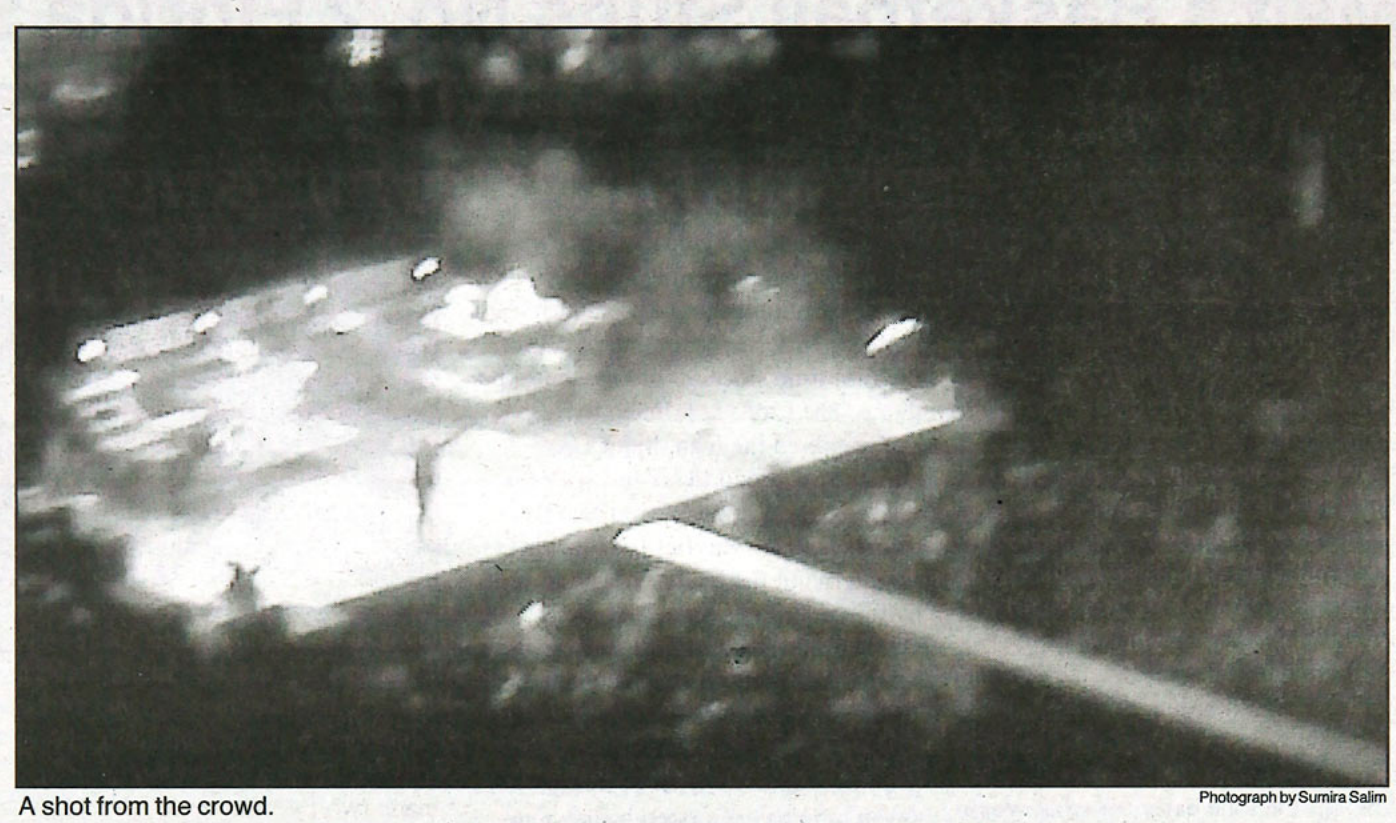
This hope for a fresh start is why so many make resolutions. The logic behind resolutions was to rid the past of demons and sin. New Year's celebration has come a long way from these origins, but people all over the world are working towards a better year by making all kinds of resolutions.

Saint Leo student Rebecca Powers spent New Year's celebrating with friends. This year her resolution is to try harder in every aspect of life.

"I chose this resolution because there is nothing I want to give up or do differently. I just want to better myself in any way possible," she said about her resolution.

Now that the ball has dropped and students are all well on their way into the year 2010, may be it's time to try hard to stick to such resolutions. Even the most hopeful find themselves breaking their own goals. Remember, it is a new year and that could mean a new you.

Winterjam 2010



A shot from the crowd. Photograph by Sumira Salim

BY SUMIRA SALIM
Lions' Prida Staff Writer

A Christian concert held every year that has grown to be to one of music's largest annual tour's.

It was held on January 17, 2010 at the St. Pete Times Forum. In past years, Winter Jam was held at the USF sun dome but was relocated to the larger location after having to turn people away at the door due to the large number of attendance.

This year featured artist such as Revive, Newsong, Third Day, Tenth Avenue North, Sidewalk Prophets, Fireflight, Newsboys, Robert Pierre, and guest speaker Tony Nolan.

Winter Jam brought a huge crowd to the down town area that almost filled the entire St.Pete Times Forum within 30 minutes of opening its doors. The concert ran smoothly with the artist keeping everyone on their feet. Each artist gave their thanks to God and briefly mentioned his glory. Before intermission, Tony Nolan spoke a salvation message comparing the exchange of a penny for $50 to the exchange of sin for eternal life and all the riches of the world. The night was full of praise and worship that had everyone excited and bursting with joy.

Winter Jam will be in back in Florida in Tallahassee on March 3, 2010. It will be at the Leon County Civic Center, 505 W. Pensacola St., TALLAHASSEE, FL.

The cost is $10 at the door. Concert begins at 7p.m.

For more information see their website http://www.hearitfirst.com/WinterJam

9 ways to keep life simple

BY CHERALYN BARRINGTON
Lions' Pride Assistant Layout Editor

With a busy schedule, life can often seem like a juggling act; here are ten ways to simplify things this years.

1)Clean or Organize Personal Space

The saying goes, "cluttered room, cluttered mind." One thing that often helps people find peace of mind is to de-clutter personal living space by organizing. Finding a new place for something or organizing an existing space can be very therapeutic. The brain finds it easier to look at things that are orderly so this can help clear the mind. Also, by having specific places for everything, items will be misplaced less often, which creates less stress, and saves time that may have been spent looking for them.

2)Getting Rid of Extraneous Items

Getting rid of old items that are rarely used will help to de-clutter personal space. If the items are donated, other people might find a much better use for them.

One man (or woman's) trash can be another's treasure! Also, throwing things away can be metaphorical for "getting a fresh start" or making room for new items.

3)Keep a Planner

Using a planner to keep track of daily appointments and due dates ensuresadvance notice and a constant reminder of important events. Since memory only retains a certain amount of information, having everything written down can really help take extra pressure off.

4)Time Management

With school, work, social time, and having time just to eat and sleep, it can be very difficult to find time for self-reflection. Writing down an all-encompassing schedule that includes all of these things plus some personal time can help with organization and make things easier.

5)Have Alone Time

Having alone time is extremely important because the hustle and bustle of life involving many different people can be tiring after a while. It is imperative to have some time to think alone and self-reflect.

6)Keep a Journal

One way to have ultimate self-reflection is to write thoughts, fears, and wishes down. Writing one thing down can trigger another idea and many ideas that may not have been thought about. After writing, re-read the entry because this helps to give a better self-perspective. Once fears or ideas are spelled out on paper, it is easier to solve or accept them.

7)Get Rid of Toxic Friendships

Friendship is supposed to be about love, loyalty and respect. Often times, this is not the case and friends can have a negative impact on each other. Sometimes it can be difficult to notice this because people get use to having the same friends with harmful qualities for an extended period of time. If a friend is causing more bad emotion than good and they do not respond to a conversation to help fix this issue, it may be time to let them go, or spend less time with this person. Negative feelings and comments are often contagious and no one should have to feel bad because of another person's issue.

8)Calming Hobbies

Having time alone or spending time doing things that bring about good emotions like happiness or self-confidence can be very therapeutic and calming. Since school and daily activities are loaded with stress triggers, it is important to be able to take a break from all of that. Activities like listening to calming and feel-good music or taking a yoga class can be very rewarding.

9)Read a Book

Reading a book often serves as a very good temporary escape from real life. Reading about the book characters conflicts helps to focus the mind on others. Reading also allows for alone and self-reflection time.

Sports

Men's Basketball Stuns No. 2 Florida Southern

BY JACOB STOUT
Lions' Pride Sports Writer

On January 13 before a crowd of more than 500 spectators at the Saint Leo's Marion-Bowman Center, the Saint Leo men's basketball team upset the Florida Southern Moccasins 91-79. The Moccasins entered the game ranked No. 2 in the nation in NCAA D-II basketball. Solid rebounding by the Lions, paired with poor shooting by the Moccasins, created perfect opportunity for Saint Leo to take lead.

Senior Josue Vazquez got the scoring started with an easy layup from an offensive rebound. Florida Southern came back down the court and hit a 3-pointer but on the next possession for the Lions, a baseline drive finished with a dunk by Jordan Prais set the tone early for what would prove to be an exciting 40 minutes of basketball.

An 11-1 run by the Lions, accentuated with a 3-pointer by Vazquez, had Saint Leo in the driver's seat for a while. With the score 18-10 in favor of the Lions, Florida Southern ran off six straight points to cut the Saint Leo lead to two points. With about 10 minutes left in the first half, Terry Jenkins of the Moccasins finished a layup to tie the score at 23.

Another 3-pointer by Vazquez, assisted by Daniel Oliver, put the Lions back in the lead by three. The two teams exchanged points and with about six minutes to play in the first half, the Moccasins took the lead for the first time since 30 seconds into the game. The Lions continued to fight and regained the lead. Saint Leo stretched the lead to six but with three seconds to go in the period two free-throws by Rion Rayfield of Florida Southern cut the lead to four points at halftime.

With the score 44-40 starting the second half, the Moccasins came out shooting with Rayfield hitting a 3-pointer. The Lions answered with an 8-2 run of their own, to go up by seven, and never looked back. The Moccasins cut the lead to five points but could not get any closer as Vazquez hit two free throws and Saladeem Dewberry converted a layup to give the Lions a double digit lead.

Another Dewberry layup, assisted by Vazquez, pushed the score to 63-51 in favor of Saint Leo. Good free-throw shooting by the Lions kept the Moccasins at bay. With about nine minutes to go, Dominick Robinson made two free-throws to give Saint Leo a 13 point lead. Two missed shots by Florida Southern gave the Lions possession and Robinson hit a 3-pointer to go up by 16 points.

Josue Vazquez and Eric Sharper Courtesy of Mike Carlson

The Moccasins cut the lead to seven points with about two minutes to play but Saint Leo remained solid at the free-throw line and pushed the lead back to 14 points. A layup by Brett Bailey of Florida Southern was the final basket of the game and the Lions had stunned the Moccasins 91-79.

Robinson was a perfect 8-for-8 from the free-throw line and finished with 23 points and 10 rebounds. Prais led the Lions with 24 points. Moccasins forward, John Thompson led all scorers with 30 points.

Three days later the Lions played host again. Vazquez had an outstanding game with 16 points and 10 assists as Saint Leo routed Florida College 92-54.

Saint Leo student-athletes serve at "Give Kids The World Village"

Group hard at work. Courtesy of Liz Casey

Group shot at the village. Courtesy of Erin Lucas

BY JESSICA PALL & MINDY PIERCE
Lions' Pride Sports Editors

Imagine if you could give a dying wish to a child who had a death threatening illness. What would you do to help make that true? "Give Kids The World Village" is a foundation home stationed in Kissimmee, FL that grants children their life's last wish.

On January 17th, nearly 40 student athletes from Saint Leo University traveled to Kissimmee, Florida to give a day of community service towards the "Give Kids The World Village" foundation. The day of service was put on by the Sunshine State Conference (SCC) Experience and Leadership Ignites Teamwork and Excellence (E.L.I.T.E.), where approximately 100 student-athletes from participating schools were in attendance. This is the first year Saint Leo athletes have volunteered, although the SCC has been involved for three years.

While Saint Leo student-athletes did not work directly with the kids, they helped by fertilizing the 70 acre facility and filling the walkway with sand called "Avenue of Dreams."

"I did not know anything about the village until we got there…my experience at Give Kids the World has inspired me, even though we did not really interact with the families on site", senior Erin Lucas from the swim team commented.

Lucas said that as they were fertilizing the grounds, she and the other athletes were able to learn more about this resort. Most of the families that come have never had a vacation. After being picked up from the airport and brought to the village, they are given tickets to Disney, Universal Studios, and Sea World. Particularly, this village caters to the needs of children with life-threatening illnesses, which allow the families to be stress free and able to experience something they will never forget.

Student-Athletes that gave a day of service to "Give Kids The World Village" from Saint Leo are:

Mike DelBuono – Lacrosse, Josue Vazquez - M Basketball, Scott Stefanef - M Soccer, Sarah Boyd – Softball, Ana Castillo – Softball, Jessica Figueredo – Softball, Garris – Softball, Dianne Gonzalez – Softball, Katie Gwinn – Softball, Tiffinee Harvey – Softball, Kristen Kelly – Softball, Kathrine Lamb – Softball, Amber Martyn – Softball, Danielle Moreda – Softball, Tiffany Munz – Softball, Jaime Walker – Softball, Ashton Whidden – Softball, Brittany Yates – Softball, Danielle Bletso – Volleyball, Emily Calderon-Reyes – Volleyball, Erica Davis – Volleyball, Lucy Fricker – Volleyball, Kaitlin McKenna – Volleyball, Kim Nuckols – Volleyball, Leah Perry – Volleyball, Corey Ryan – Volleyball, Jaime Seda – Volleyball, DeErika Brown - W Basketball, Elise Clyburn - W Basketball, Brianna Lollis - W Basketball, Chanele Patton - W Basketball, Melissa Schmidt - W Basketball, Alyssa Viscomi - W Basketball, Goeun Lee - W Golf, Courtney Kassab - W Soccer, Elizabeth Casey - W Swimming, Erin Lucas - W Swimming.

There are many different ways for Saint Leo students and faculty to continue helping Give Kids the World. Visit their website www.gktw.org or call 1-800-995-KIDS to learn how to take part with your time, talents, or resources.

Senior Spotlight

Lucas and Hotchkiss Courtesy of Jessica Pall

BY JESSICA PALL & MINDY PIERCE
Lions' Pride Sports Editors

Erin Lucas and Erin Hotchkiss are the two graduating female seniors from Lions' swimming program. Both have been competitively swimming for a majority of their life with Lucas at 15 years and Hotchkiss at 13. Lucas is double majoring in Sport Business and International Hospitality and Tourism desiring to plan amateur sport events after graduating. Hotchkiss is a mathematics major and after graduating plans on getting a masters in Biostatistics/Epidemiology and do research. Lucas has obtained the girls and women in sports award freshman year, set school records for relays, and was conference finalist freshman and sophomore year in Sunshine State Conference during her athletic career here. Similarly, Hotchkiss has set 5 school records and has been conference finalist in the last 3 years. Lucas said the training trip to Key West is her favorite memory while Hotchkiss's favorite memory is when her previous coach, Cyle Sage, had a pie fight with one of the graduating seniors. The Lions' Pride wishes you both the best for your senior year!